

both in the classroom and on the athletic field. Kenny graduated Woodlands High School with honors in 1981 and after graduation, he accepted a baseball scholarship to attend Tulane University in New Orleans, LA.

In 1985, Kenny completed his degree from Tulane and signed a Letter of Intent with the Cincinnati Reds of Major League Baseball. He also completed two years of AA Baseball in Birmingham, Alabama and one year in Yasu, Japan.

In 1989, Kenny became a Master Mason and member of The Bright Hope Lodge No. 62 in White Plains, New York. Kenny elevated to Worshipful Master in 2003 and has held a number of appointed Grand Lodge offices for MWPHGL of New York, including Grand Librarian (2004 to 2009) and DDGM (2010 to Present). He is also affiliated with Bright Hope Chapter No. 46, Pentecost Consistory No. 98 and A.E.A.O.N.M.S. Elejmal Temple No. 185.

Professionally, Kenny was employed by IBM for 28 years, where he moved up the corporate ladder, and today serves as Corporate Security Supervisor for Century Protective Services. He is also a member of Trinity United Methodist Church in White Plains, NY, where he is involved in several activities sponsored by the church. In addition, Kenny was involved in many community activities such as: Feeding the Less Fortunate, Widows Mother's Day Breakfast, Thanksgiving Food Basket Giveaway, and coaching youth baseball.

Kenny has always been willing to lend a helping hand, which is why he is receiving this great honor. I want to congratulate and thank him for all he has done to better our community.

TRIBUTE TO TERRY AND CONNIE BUTTLER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Terry and Connie Buttler of Guthrie Center, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on September 30th.

Terry and Connie's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued success.

HONORING AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

HON. DWIGHT EVANS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a devoted and inspirational church, the

African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas (AECST), of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

This year AECST celebrates 225 years of dedicated ministry and service to the community of Philadelphia. AECST has provided 225 years of "Legacy, Faith, and Hope". AECST was founded in 1792, by Reverend Absalom Jones and stands as the first Black Episcopal Church in the U.S.A. It is also recognized as one of two oldest black churches in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Historically, AECST was founded to provide religious support, foster personal and religious freedoms, and self-determination for persons of African descent. The original African Church was an outgrowth of the Free African Society, a mutual aid organization established in 1787 by Absalom Jones, Richard Allen and others to assist the Black population in Philadelphia. The early religious services were held in private homes and in a school. Within the congregation were many who, because of growing racial tension and insults had followed the lay preachers, Absalom Jones and Richard Allen, broke away from the St. George's Methodist Church. Affiliation with the Episcopal Church was ratified in 1794. The Reverend Absalom Jones became the first Episcopal priest of African American descent and the first rector of St. Thomas' Church.

AECST has been in the vanguard of action to sustain the legacy of humanitarianism and community outreach passed down from its founders. Admirably, AECST's clergy and parishioners have played key roles in the abolition, anti-slavery and Underground Railroad movements and the early equal rights movement of the 1800's. Over the past fifty years, AECST has figured prominently in the civil rights movement, The NAACP, Union of Black Episcopalians, Opportunities Industrialization Center, Philadelphia Interfaith Action and The Episcopal Church Women. Paramount, however, has been the movement to uphold the knowledge and value of the Black presence in the Episcopal Church. Today, that tradition continues with an ever-growing membership and through a host of ministries such as Christian Formation, the Chancel Choir, Gospel Choir, Jazz Ensemble, Men's Fellowship, Young Adult and Youth Ministries, a Church School, Health Ministry, Caring Ministry, and a Shepherding Program.

Today, AECST flourishes as an open, Christ-centered community of faith where the Gospel is taught, lived and spread. As evidenced through AECST's history, they have a longstanding dedication toward advocating and improving the lives of others.

The 2nd Congressional District of Pennsylvania extends gratitude to the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas for its dedicated support to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

TRIBUTE TO IRENE STIMSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Irene Stimson of Blanchard, Iowa on the very special occasion of her 100th birthday. Irene was born on October 19, 1917.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Irene's life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Irene has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-five Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Irene in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 100th birthday. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Irene on reaching this incredible milestone, and in wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call votes held on November 28, 2017, I was inescapably detained handling important matters related to my District and the State of Alabama. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on H.R. 2768, and NO on H.R. 3115.

TRIBUTE TO THE 2017 NODAWAY VALLEY BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Nodaway Valley High School Boys Cross Country team for winning the Iowa Class 1A State Cross Country Championship for the third consecutive year. In addition to the championship, the team set a program record with an average time of 16:56 for their seven varsity runners.

I would like to congratulate each member of the team:

Runners: Brycen Wallace, Skyler Rawlings, Austin Lundy, Joel Blazek, Joshua Baudler, Tyler Breheny and Ben Breheny

Head Coach: Darrell Burmeister

Assistant Coaches: David Swanson, Phyllis Eshelman, Alyse Herr Dreher

Mr. Speaker, the example set by these students and their coaches demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating these young men for their achievements in this rigorous competition and wishing them all nothing but continued success.